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# NEWTON-LE-WILLOWS URBAN DISTRICT.

1946

## A N N U A L  R E P O R T

of the

## M E D I C A L  O F F I C E R  O F  H E A L T H.

to which is appended the

## R E P O R T

of the

## S A N I T A R Y  I N S P E C T O R.

# NEWTON-LE-WILLOWS URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

## ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

## FOR THE YEAR 1946.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Dr. Appleton left the service of the Council on 31st. December, 1946 and, as no successor has yet been appointed, I have the honour to submit the Annual Report for the Year ending on that date.

### SECTION A.

Statistics & Social Conditions of the Area.

Area - 3103 acres. Estimated population at mid 1946 - 21,140
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1946 according to Rate books) ..... 5,986
Rateable value - £100,439. Sum represented by penny rate. £389

Vital Statistics.

| | | Male. | Female. | Total. |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Live Births. | Legitimate. | 187 | 166 | 353 |
| | Illegitimate. | 8 | 8 | 16 |
| | Total. | 195 | 174 | 369 |

Birth rate per 1,000 estimated population 17·4.

| | Male. | Female. | Total. |
|---|---|---|---|
| Still Births. | 9 | 4 | 13. |

Rate per 1,000 (live and still) births. 34.

| Deaths. | Male | Female. | Total. |
|---|---|---|---|
| Total deaths. | 140 | 101 | 241 |

Death rate per 1,000 estimated population. 11·4.

Deaths from Puerperal Sepsis - nil. Other Puerperal causes - nil

Death rate of Infants (under 1 year of age) :-
All infants per 1,000 live births. 62
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate births. 59
Illegitimate infants per 1000 illegitimate births. 125

Deaths from - Cancer (all ages) 42 Measles - nil
Whooping Cough. 1. Diarrhoea 2 (under 2 yrs)

There was no unusual or excessive mortality during the year.

### SECTION B.

General provision of Health Services for the area.

Medical Officer of Health. S. K. Appleton, M.D., D.P.H., D.T.M.
Full time also with Golborne U.D.C. and Haydock U.D.C.
Resigned 31st. December, 1946.
Chief Sanitary Inspector. Full time. L. M. Booth, M.R. San.I., M.S.I.A., Cert. S.I.B.
Additional Sanitary Inspector. Full time. K. Hilton, M.S.I.A. Cert. S.I.B.
From 1st. February, 1946.
Both Sanitary Inspectors hold the Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute as Inspector of Meat and Other Foods.
Health Visitor. Full time. Miss I. Heap, S.C.M., S.R.N., R.S.I., (Health Visitor)

Laboratory facilities.

Pathological specimens are submitted to:-
(a) Public Health Laboratory, Manchester.
(b) E.M.S. Laboratory, St. Helens.
Samples for bacteriological, biological and chemical examination to the Public Health Laboratory, Manchester.
Food and Drugs samples to the County Analyst, Preston.

Ambulance facilities.

The Council owns and maintains one ambulance for infectious cases and two ambulances for non-infectious, accident, and maternity cases.

Consultation and Treatment Centres and Clinics.

The Council is a
(a) Maternity and Child Welfare Authority and Clinics are held at Cross Lane on Mondays and Tuesdays (Child Welfare) and Wednesday (Ante natal).
(b) The School Clinic at the Gables, Crow Lane West, is controlled by the County Council.

Hospitals.

The War Memorial Cottage Hospital maintained by voluntary subscriptions is within the district and the Council have provided and maintained the Isolation Hospital, Bradlegh Road, in which infectious cases from Newton-le-Willows and, by agreement, from Haydock U.D. and Warrington R.D. are treated.

## SECTION C.

Prevalence and Control over Infectious Diseases.

Age Groups.

| DISEASE. | 0-1 | 1-3 | 3-5 | 5-10 | 10-15 | 15-25 | Over 25 | Total | Total Deaths | Cases removed to hospt. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Sc. Fever. | - | 1 | 9 | 15 | 6 | 4 | 3 | 38 | - | 35 |
| Diphtheria. | 1 | - | - | - | - | 2 | - | 3 | 1 | 9* |
| Enteric Fever. | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - |
| Measles. | 8 | 53 | 98 | 97 | 2 | 2 | - | 260 | - | 6 |
| Wh. Cough. | 7 | 15 | 31 | 22 | 2 | - | 1 | 78 | 1 | 1 |
| C.Spinal Fever. | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 5* |
| Ac.Poliomyelitis. | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Dysentery. | - | - | - | 1 | - | 2 | 10 | 13 | - | - |
| Ophth. Neon. | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | 1 |
| Erysipelas. | - | - | - | - | - | 3 | 5 | 8 | - | 4 |
| Ac.Pneumonia. | 3 | 1 | 1 | 5 | 3 | 7 | 20 | 40 | 6 | - |
| Totals. | 20 | 70 | 139 | 141 | 13 | 20 | 39 | 442 | 10 | 62 |

* Includes cases subsequently re-diagnosed as non-infectious cases.

Immunisation.

Number of children immunised during the year - under 5 years - 204
- 5/15 years - 26
- Total - 230

Immunisation state of child population as at 31st December, 1946.
No protected by artificial immunisation -
under 5 years 726 - 45·95%
5/15 years. 1889 - 59·76%
Total 2615 - 55·17%

Tuberculosis.

New cases and mortality during 1947.

| Age Periods. Years. | New cases. Respiratory. M | F | Non-respiratory. M | F | Deaths. Respiratory. M | F | Non-respiratory. M | F |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 0 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 1 | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | - |
| 5 | - | - | - | 2 | - | - | - | - |
| 10 | - | - | 1 | 2 | - | - | - | - |
| 15 | 2 | 1 | - | - | - | 1 | - | - |
| 20 | 2 | 1 | - | 1 | - | - | - | 1 |
| 25 | 2 | 1 | - | 1 | - | 2 | - | 1 |
| 35 | 2 | 1 | 1 | - | 1 | - | - | - |
| 45 | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 55 | 1 | 1 | 1 | - | 1 | - | - | - |
| 65 and over. | 1 | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | - |
| Totals. | 11 | 5 | 3 | 7 | 3 | 3 | - | 2 |
| | 16 | | 10 | | 6 | | 2 | |

SECTION D.

Housing.

I am indebted to the Surveyor for the following information:-

Number of new houses erected during the year:-

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| (1) | By the local authority. | 44 |
| (2) | By Ministry of Works. Temporary aluminium pre-fabs. | 50 |
| (3) | By other bodies or persons. | 4 |
| | Total. | 98 |

SECTION E.

Maternity and Child Welfare.

This work is carried out by the local authority.

(a) Ante-natal work.
No. of women who attended ante-natal clinics during the year 244
Total number of attendances. ..... ..... ..... 940
Abnormal cases may be referred to the Liverpool Maternity Hospital.

(b) Hospitals and other institutions, available for the reception of expectant and nursing mothers and young children.
(1) Maternity. Warrington General Hospital. Victoria Park Home - - Warrington. Liverpool Maternity Hospital. St. Mary's Hospital - - Manchester. Home of the Good Samaritan, Warrington. Peasley Cross Hospital - St. Helens.
(2) Children. Liverpool Childrens' Hospital. Manchester Childrens' Hospt

(c) Arrangements for:-
(1) Home Helps. - One employed part time.
(2) Supply of food and milk to expectant and nursing mothers and milk for infants - Proprietary brands available at cost price.

(d) Arrangements for dental treatment and for orthopaedic treatment of children under 5 years are made with the Lancashire County Council.

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All other matters are dealt with in the Chief Sanitary Inspector's Report.

Yours faithfully,

W. C. LATHAM,

Acting Medical Officer of Health.

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# URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF NEWTON-LE-WILLOWS.

## REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR

## FOR THE YEAR 1946.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit the report on the work of my branch of the Health Department for the year 1946.

On 1st. February, Mr. Kenneth Hilton took up his duties as Additional Sanitary Inspector, and it was largely due to him that the work of the department proceeded smoothly despite the disruptive influences which were at work throughout the major portion of the year.

Miss Barbara Twiss succeeded Mrs. Kathleen Harwood as Sanitary Inspector's Clerk on 22nd March. Mrs. Harwood had been with the department for six years and her efficient and conscientious service was very much appreciated.

My sincere thanks are due to the Chairman and members of the Health Committee, Officials of the Council, and the staff of my Department for the willing assistance rendered throughout the year.

### 1. HOUSING.

(A) Overcrowding.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| (a) | 1. | Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year | 9 |
| | 2. | Number of families dwelling therein ..... ..... | 16 |
| | 3. | Number of persons dwelling therein ..... ..... | 93 |
| (b) | | Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year. ..... | 35 |
| (c) | 1. | Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year. | 26 |
| | 2. | Number of persons concerned in such cases ..... | 235 |

Several of the existing cases of overcrowding are concerned with families too large to be adequately re-housed in 3 bedroomed type houses. These cases are usually the most grossly overcrowded and existing multi bedroomed type Council houses should be reserved for them when available.

(B) Fitness of Houses.

Shortages of materials again precluded any extensive repairs to dwellings. Action taken was under the Public Health Act rather than the Housing Act, and was limited to absolute essentials.

Two houses rendered dangerous by mining subsidence were demolished voluntarily by the owner.

### 2. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a) Milk Supply. Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops were inspected periodically.

| | |
|---|---|
| No. of dairy farms. .... ..... ..... ..... | 12 |
| Approx. number of cows in district. ..... ..... | 150 |
| No. of cowkeepers (including the dairy farms) ..... | 12 |
| No. of inspections during the year. ..... ..... | 22 |
| No. of dairymen or milk purveyors. ..... ..... (other than cowkeepers.) | 88 |

Action taken by local authority as to:-

(1) Tuberculous milk.

No. of samples submitted for biological test. ..... 23

Result - Positive 1. Negative 22.

(2) Bacteriological examinations.

Standard adopted... Count 200,000 per c.c., No. bacillus coli in ·01cc.

No. samples. 23. No. satisfactory 18. No. unsatisfactory 5.

(b) Meat and Other Foods.

Routine visits and inspections were made periodically with special visits when necessary.

There is no slaughterhouse within the district.

Foodstuffs condemned:-

| Nature. | Quantities. Cwt. | qrs. | lbs. |
|---|---|---|---|
| Meat (butchers') | | 1 | 6 |
| Fruits (dried) | 1 | 2 | 1 |
| Bacon and ham. | | | 24 |
| Cheese. | | | 14 |
| Peas (dried) | | 3 | - |
| Fruit cakes. | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| Total. | 4 | - | 19 |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Meat (canned) | 39 tins. | Vegetables (canned) | 32 tins. |
| Fish (canned) | 28 tins. | Milk (canned) | 70 tins. |
| Fruit (canned) | 20 tins. | | |

(c) Adulteration.

The council is a Food & Drugs Authority. 30 informal and 13 formal samples were taken and submitted to the County Analyst at Preston.

Samples taken were:-

Informal.

| | |
|---|---|
| Oatmeal. | 1 |
| Self raising flour. | 1 |
| Coffee. | 1 |
| Salt. | 1 |
| Mustard. | 1 |
| Margarine. | 1 |
| Macaroni. | 1 |
| Bacon. | 1 |
| Cough Mixture. | 1 |
| Cheese. | 1 |
| Sardines. | 1 |
| Meat Paste. | 2 |
| Ground Gelatine. | 2 |
| Castor Oil. | 1 |
| Pearl Barley. | 1 |
| Flour. | 1 |
| Semolina. | 2 |
| Cocoa. | 1 |
| Lard. | 1 |
| Tea. | 1 |
| Jam. | 1 |
| Glauber's Salts. | 1 |
| Butter. | 1 |
| Vinegar. | 1 |
| Junket Powder. | 1 |
| Vanilla Powder. | 1 |
| Sugar. | 1 |
| Total. | 30 |

All were found to be genuine.

Formal.

Milk 13.
With one exception these were genuine.

The adulterated sample was deficient of 8% solids not fat and contained not less than 7·2% of extraneous water. Further samples were obtained and the vendor warned.

## 3. INFECTIOUS DISEASES - CONTROL.

Enquiries were made upon notification. Disinfection of rooms and bedding was carried out in all cases of removal of tuberculous patients. In other cases bedding was treated as routine, but rooms were dealt with only on request.

| | |
|---|---|
| Visits by Inspectors. ..... ..... | 77 |
| Disinfections. ..... ..... | 21 |
| No. of rooms disinfected. ..... | 25 |

## 4. VERMIN CONTROL.

The following special visits were made:-

| | |
|---|---|
| Visits to verminous premises. ..... | 123 |
| Verminous premises treated. ..... | 29 |
| Rooms treated. ..... ..... | 69 |

The department used D.D.T. in its liquid and its powder form during the year with exceedingly good results.

Tenants were advised on cleanliness, care of furniture, and furnishings and it was stressed that their efforts were essential both in getting rid of infestation and in preventing re-infestation.

## 5. STATISTICAL SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS MADE; NOTICES SERVED ETC..

Complaints received and investigated. 294

Analysis of visits made.

(a) General Sanitation.

| | |
|---|---|
| Water supply. | 21 |
| Drainage. | 150 |
| Stables and Piggeries. | 3 |
| Fried fish shops. | 11 |
| Common Lodging Houses. | 4 |
| Factories. | 29 |
| Bakehouses. | 4 |
| Public conveniences. | 23 |
| Refuse collection and disposal. | 31 |
| Licensed houses. | 9 |
| Miscellaneous. | 89 |
| Total. | 374 |

(b) Housing.
Under Public Health Acts.

| | |
|---|---|
| No. of houses inspected. ..... | 417 |
| Visits paid to above. ..... | 794 |

Under Housing Acts.

| | |
|---|---|
| No. of houses inspected. ..... | 3 |
| Visits paid to above. ..... | 5 |

Overcrowding.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| No. of houses inspected. | ..... | 36. |
| Visits paid to above. | ..... | 54 |

Verminous Premises.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| No. of houses inspected. | ..... | 59 |
| Visits paid to above | ..... | 64 |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Miscellaneous Housing visits (including Points Scheme.) | ..... | 182. |
| Total. ..... ..... | ..... | 1614 |

(c) Infectious Diseases.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Inquiries in cases of I.D. | | 59 |
| Visits re disinfection. | ..... | 18 |
| Total. | | 77 |

(d) Meat & Food Inspection.

| | |
|---|---|
| Inspection of meat - slaughtering | 7 |
| " " " - shops and stalls. | 4 |
| " " " - other premises. | 15 |
| Visits to butchers. | 6 |
| Fishmongers etc. | 3 |
| Grocers. | 24 |
| Greengrocers and fruiterers. | 4 |
| Cowsheds. | 22 |
| Dairies & Milk shops. | 25 |
| Ice Cream premises. | 12 |
| Food preparing premises. | 14 |
| Market Stells. | 265 |
| Street vendors & hawkers' carts. | 12 |
| Visits in connection with Sampling. | |
| Milk - Bacteriological. | 15 |
| Milk - Tubercle bacilli. | 15 |
| Food & Drugs Samples. | 43 |
| Water Sampling. | 24 |
| Total. | 510 |
| Total inspections and visits. ..... | 2575. |

Notices Served.

| | |
|---|---|
| No. of informal notices served. | 230 |
| No. of informal notices complied with. | 226 |
| No. of statutory notices served. | 5 |
| No. of statutory notices complied with. | 1 |

Analysis of Defects noted and remedied.

| Type of Defect. | Recorded. | Remedied. |
|---|---|---|
| Choked drains. | 49 | 47 |
| Defective drains. | 3 | 2 |
| Washing accommodation. | 17 | 15 |
| Cooking accommodation. | 3 | 3 |
| Food stores. | 2 | - |

Analysis of Defects noted and remedied. (contd.)

| Type of Defect. | Recorded. | Remedied. |
|---|---|---|
| Dustbins. | 46 | 56 |
| Water supply. | 19 | 20 |
| Roofs. | 78 | 34 |
| Eaves gutters. | 68 | 57 |
| Downspouts. | 34 | 17 |
| Brickwork and/or pointing. | 85 | 46 |
| Woodwork. | 16 | 4 |
| Plastering. | 158 | 56 |
| Floors. | 67 | 26 |
| Windows. | 52 | 28 |
| Doors and/or frames. | 8 | 3 |
| Chimneys and flues. | 30 | 22 |
| Sinks and/or waste pipes. | 27 | 18 |
| W.C.'s basins etc.. | 50 | 47 |
| Cleansing and/or decorating. | 11 | 7 |
| Miscellaneous. | 64 | 48 |
| Total. | 887 | 556 |

## 6. AMBULANCES.

The council maintains its own ambulance service and the ambulances ran 10,271 miles in response to 1394 calls.

| Type of case. | No. of calls. |
|---|---|
| Infectious disease. | 197 |
| Accidents on the streets. | 22 |
| Accidents at places of employment. | 17 |
| Accidents and urgent cases of sickness at home. | 207 |
| Maternity cases. | 57 |
| Ambulant cases. | 894 |
| Total. | 1394 |

## 7. REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL.

Refuse Collection was carried out satisfactorily during the year and a weekly collection was maintained in spite of two of the vehicles being out of commission for long periods due to difficulties in obtaining spare parts.

The Wharf Road Tip neared completion and topping up and soiling will be necessary during 1947.

Salvage has been maintained and is likely to remain a prominent feature of refuse collection and disposal for many years.

The following materials were salvaged during the year:-

| Material | Weight. Tons. | Cwt. | Qrs. | Income. £ | s. | d |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Paper. | 78 | 3 | 0 | 522 | 16 | 4 |
| Bottles 668 doz. | 3 | 5 | 2 | 38 | 9 | 0 |
| Jars. 563 doz. | 2 | 15 | 1 | 7 | 13 | 10 |
| Rags. | 3 | 15 | 2 | 37 | 15 | 0 |
| Ferrous Metals. | 3 | 17 | 1 | 9 | 13 | 1 |
| Non-ferrous Metals. | - | 7 | 0 | 5 | 14 | 0 |
| Glass cullet. | 16 | 18 | 3 | 13 | 6 | 2 |
| Bones. | 1 | 3 | 3 | 6 | 4 | 8 |
| String. | | 3 | 1 | 1 | 12 | 6 |
| Miscellaneous. | | | | | 9 | 0 |
| Total. | 110 | 9 | 1 | £643 | 13 | 7 |

8. WATER SUPPLY.

The water supply has been satisfactory both in quality and quantity although it was found necessary to consider provision of an additional source of supply.

Supply from public mains.

| | Direct to houses. | By means of stand pipe. |
|---|---|---|
| No. of dwellings. | 5982 | 1 |
| No. of population. | 21,128. | 6 |

Private supplies - wells, springs etc..

3 dwellings, housing 12 people.

Examinations of Piped Supplies.

(a) Raw water. Bacteriological examinations. - 11. All satisfactory
Chemical analysis - 2. Both satisfactory.
"A hard water of a high degree of purity".

(b) Water going into supply.
Bacteriological examinations. - 11. All satisfactory

There was no contamination of the supply and no liability to plumbo solvent action.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

L. M. BOOTH,

Chief Sanitary Inspector.